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THE INTELLIGENCE WAR PEACE COUNCIL'S MILITARY ALLIES

By ROBERT MOSS

UNILATERAL disarmament lobbies in Western Europe and America are preparing to intensify their activities in the run-up to the UN's second special session on disarmament, scheduled to open in New York on June 9.

The Helsinki-based World Peace Council is a Soviet front organisation that operates under the supervision of the International Department of the Soviet Communist party.

It is playing a central role in the campaign to prevent the modernisation of Nato's theatre nuclear forces and to mobilise opposition to the Reagan Administration's defence plans.

The council has publicly claimed credit for blocking the Carter Administration's project to manufacture and deploy an Enhanced Radiation Warhead—the so-called "Neutron Bomb."

More recently, it has been successful in forging a "broad front" with Church groups, non-Marxist politicians, and committees of concerned "experts."

In particular, its propaganda against the upgrading of Nato weapons systems has been lent credibility by the frequent use that is made of the names of senior retired generals and admirals, on both sides of the Atlantic, who now profess to believe that the Soviet military build-up does not threaten the Western Alliance.

On the European side, two of the most active members of this group of high-ranking former military men are Gen. Nino Pasti, once a top official in Nato's Southern Command, and Maj-Gen. Gert Bastian, formerly the commander of the 12th division of the West German Army.

Gen. Pasti was elected to the Italian Senate as an "independent" running on the Communist party ticket. At a press conference in the Hague last November, he insisted that the idea of Soviet "strategic superiority" was "a lie fabricated by the CIA and spread by Nato propaganda."

Pasti also maintained that "the most serious threat to the

which suffered the gravest trials in the last war. This cannot be said of the United States, where the idea of war is linked with the profits of certain circles."

Gen Bastian expressed parallel views at an earlier meeting in Groningen, Holland, last April, co-sponsored by the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information. The text of his speech was later published in a Pamphlet entitled "Nuclear War in Europe," produced by the World Peace Council sponsored Nordic Peace Conference.

Both Gen. Pasti and Gen. Bastian visited Washington last year and addressed Congressional audiences on Capitol Hill. Some of their American counterparts have been frequent visitors to Western Europe, where their criticism of American defence policy is often given extensive media replay.

Moscow trip

The Centre for Defence Information in Washington is the base for a number of retired American generals and admirals who are engaged in lobbying against the upgrading of American and Nato forces.

Its director is Rear Adm. Gene R. Larocque, who visited Moscow in 1975 as a guest of the Institute of the USA and Canada, which advises the Soviet party leadership and the KGB on trends and opportunities in North America.

According to a recent defector from the Institute, Miss Galina Orionova, a large number of its staffers are KGB agents.

Admiral Larocque had won international prominence earlier in 1975 when he told a Congressional subcommittee that the United States did not honour standing agreements to off-load nuclear weapons from American warships before they docked in Japanese ports—an allegation that caused a major stir in Tokyo, but was never substantiated.

Adm. Larocque's newly-appointed deputy director at the Centre for Defence Information is Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, who retired from the American navy in 1966 as Deputy Chief of Operations.

Gen. Haig was Nato Supreme Commander) he served as Director of Operations on the United States European Command Staff.

He was a participant at a private conference for Disarmament Organisers held in Nyack, New York, from Oct. 25-25, under the auspices of Mobilisation for Survival.

The gathering discussed a programme of demonstrations, letter-writing campaigns, teach-ins, Congressional lobbying and "creative, dramatic actions" at shareholders' meetings of corporations involved in weapons production, such as Rockwell International.

A month after the Nyack meeting, the Moscow Radio commentator, Gennady Gerasimov, singled Adm. Carroll out for praise for supporting President Brezhnev's call to the Reagan Administration "to give up dreams of attaining military superiority over the Soviet Union."

Cuba's hand in

the drug trade

A COLOMBIAN drug trafficker who is being held in a Mexican jail is said to have run guns to revolutionary guerrillas as part of a deal made with Raul Castro, Cuba's Defence Minister (and Fidel's brother).

The drug-runner, Jaime Guillot Lara, has been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Miami on marijuana conspiracy charges.

After a meeting in Miami last year with a Cuban "diplomat," Gonzalo Bezol, and his "chauffeur" (identified as the former demolitions chief for the Cuban forces in Angola) Guillot is said to have flown to Nicaragua for a secret get-together with Raul Castro.

According to police and intelligence sources, they hatched a deal whereby Guillot would trade guns for drugs with the Cuban-backed M-19 guerrillas in Colombia. Under this arrangement, his ships were to be allowed to use Cuban ports for repairs and refuelling.

One of Guillot's associates, Johnny Grump, was arrested in Miami last month. His bail was set at \$3 million (£1,600,000). He was found in possession of documents containing the home phone numbers of Cuban officials in Havana.

U.S. minorities

THE Casa de las Americas in Havana recently played host to a seminar on the problems of minority communities in the United States. Representatives of black, Chicano (Mexican-American), Cuban-American, Puerto Rican and Indian groups attended.

"All these communities," according to the opening speech by Mariano Rodriguez, head of the Casa de las Americas, "are subjected to constant exploitation and cruel discrimination."

The final declaration of the conference claimed that minorities in the United States face a "kind of holocaust" and that the Reagan Administration is pursuing "a policy of vicious aggression towards the poor and disenfranchised."

Beyond the predictable rhetoric, two aspects of the seminar were intriguing as a possible guide to President Castro's policies.

The first was the claim by Mariano Rodriguez that "among the ranks of those who left Cuba because of lack of will, defects of character, family pressure or blindness we see sectors emerging whose social conscience is taking shape and achieving its most advanced expression in the bridge of solidarity that some have been able to extend towards our homeland."

'Hostile society'

"They can feel Cuban even in the entrails of a hostile imperialist society."

This reflects the intense efforts of the Castro regime to expand its influence among Cuban-Americans, who are generally regarded as one of the most viscerally anti-Communist communities in the United States.

Police sources in Miami claim that Cuban agents provocateurs have tried to build friction between the police and the community in recent demonstrations in "Little Havana."

FBI sources also believe that as many as 5,000 Cuban agents have infiltrated the United States via the boatlift of some 125,000 refugees from the seaport of Mariel last year.

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